

EPI Update for Friday, August 9, 2013
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Updated *Cyclospora* testing criteria- Please use from now on**
- **Update on *Cryptosporidiosis***
- **School begins soon**
- **Influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance**
- **Acute disease monthly summary**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Updated *Cyclospora* testing criteria- Please use from now on

Over eighty stools specimens a day continue to be submitted for *Cyclospora* testing, but there have been no positive tests for several days. Iowa's outbreak appears to be over.

IDPH and SHL are recommending that healthcare providers use the following criteria to determine whether *Cyclospora* testing of patients is appropriate. **Patients should be tested for *Cyclospora* only if:**

- Patient's diarrhea began in June, or
- Patient has prolonged diarrhea (greater than 5 days duration - eliminating the more common causes of diarrheal illness), accompanied by symptoms such as fatigue and anorexia, or
- Patient is a traveler with watery diarrhea returning from part of the world where *Cyclospora* is endemic (such as Nepal, Guatemala, or Peru).

Remember, *Cyclospora* must be specifically ordered. Please submit specimens to SHL for testing. For more information, visit:

www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=Cyclospora or
www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/. For the latest *Cyclospora* outbreak information, visit: [www.idph.state.ia.us/EHI/Issue.aspx?issue=Cyclospora Outbreak Investigation](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/EHI/Issue.aspx?issue=Cyclospora%20Outbreak%20Investigation)

Update on *Cryptosporidiosis*

In recent weeks, increased numbers of *Cryptosporidiosis* or 'Crypto' have been reported. Of the 358 cases of Crypto reported so far this year, 272 cases have occurred since June 1. An additional 138 cases are currently under investigation. Cases have been reported in nearly half of Iowa's 99 counties. In 2012, a total of 328 Crypto cases were reported for the entire year.

Of the reported cases, many reported swimming in pools, and some in lakes or rivers. To keep swimming safe, remember:

- Protect others by not swimming if you are experiencing diarrhea (this is essential for children in diapers). If diagnosed with Crypto, do not swim for at least two weeks after diarrhea stops.

- Do not swallow water in your mouth.
- Thoroughly wash your hands after using the toilet or changing diapers.
- Shower yourself and your child before swimming.
- Change diapers in a bathroom, not at the poolside.
- Take your kids on bathroom breaks and check swim diapers often.

A small number of people report being around animals; to protect yourself and family, be sure to wash hands after any contact with animals or their living areas (railings etc.), and after handling animal waste.

To read the full news release, visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphNews/Reader.aspx?id=0EF1665E-3578-4083-9D6E-2143A7CE3588

School begins soon

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) urges parents to ensure their child's immunizations are up-to-date in preparation for going back to school (Iowa law requires children to receive certain immunizations prior to attending a licensed child care center or school.) Beginning this year, Iowa students enrolling in 7th grade are *required* to have a tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine booster. Although not required, a Tdap booster is *recommended* for 8th through 12th-graders who have not yet received it. To learn more about the Tdap booster requirement, visit bit.ly/122xNKF.

Vaccination requirements, based on the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, are the minimum recommendations needed to keep children healthy. Vaccinating on schedule means healthier children, families and communities. For more information about vaccinations, including required child care and school vaccinations, recommended adult vaccinations, and more, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Immunization.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=ImmHome.

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

Clinicians (MD, DO, PA, NP, RN) with regular direct patient contact, your assistance is needed! Please join the *Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)* for the 2013-14 season. For more information on becoming a sentinel provider, please contact the state influenza surveillance coordinator - Yumei Sun at 515-281-7134 or at yumei.sun@idph.iowa.gov.

Acute disease monthly summary

CADE announces the launch of the new *Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update*, containing case counts as well as summaries of common diseases. It will be released by the 15th of each month; visit www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Default.aspx#CR.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a fun and healthy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

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